

Houghton Carriage House
1111 Guadalupe Street
Austin
Travis County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3264 A

HABS,
TEX,
227-AUST,
16A -

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HOUGHTON CARRIAGE HOUSE

HABS No. TX-3264A

Location: 1111 Guadalupe Street, or rear of 307 West 12th Street,
Austin, Travis County, Texas.

USGS Austin East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 14.620820.3349630

Present Owner: Alton C. White

Present Occupant: Office and workshop of the Austin Blueprint
and use Company, Alton C. White, owner.

Significance: The Carriage House was a service building of the John H.
Houghton House. The interesting mansard design was an
asset to the parade of fine mansions along Guadalupe Street
in the late nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The John H. Houghton house was completed 1886-87, but the Carriage House does not appear in the Bird's Eye View of Austin, 1887. This smaller structure was probably built in the early 1890s.
2. Architect: It is probable that James Wahrenberger, architect of the mansion, also prepared plans for the Carriage House.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the Clerk's Office of the County of Travis, Texas.

1859 Deed July 19, 1884, recorded July 30, 1884, in Volume 61, pages 322-323.
Wilson Green and wife Melissa, and daughter Ellis and her husband,
William L. Thomson, all of Washington County, Kentucky
To
J. H. Houghton

1911 Will written May 22, 1908, probated January 20, 1911,
Will 3476
John H. Houghton
To
Wife Florence

1912 Will written November 14, 1910, probated January 1, 1912
Will 3594
Florence Houghton
To
Josephine Houghton Allen (daughter)

1919 Proof of will February 20, 1919, recorded December 27, 1921 in Volume 332, page 246.
J.H. Allen died on December 3, 1918, in Travis County but "domicile being in Jim Hogg County."

1946 Deed June 14, 1946, recorded June 17, 1946, in Volume 794, pages 485-487.
L.C. Funnell and wife
To
Alton C. White

4. Builders, suppliers:

- a. Builders: Charles A. Shurr built the mansion and he was still an active contractor as late as 1909-10, but there is no definite information that he built the Carriage House.
- b. Suppliers: The bricks for the mansion were furnished by Butler Brick Company. Bricks of the Carriage House are quite similar to those used on the mansion.

6. Alterations and additions: Old photographs show that there was a six-foot board fence making an enclosure between the building and Guadalupe Street (probably a horse pen). In 1946 the new owner, Alton C. White, added a one-story, 12x21 addition to the west. This is the office and the first-floor large original room became the work area of the Austin Blueprint Company. At some date the original stairway in the southeast corner of the building was moved to its present location in the northwest corner.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

See John H. Houghton House, HABS No. TX-3264

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

Bird's Eye View of the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas 1873. Drawn by Augustus Koch.

Austin, State Capitol of Texas. Drawn by Augustus Koch, 1887.

2. Primary and unpublished sources:

Austin City Directories, 1872-73 to present, Austin-Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library.

Travis County Deed Books and Probate Records, Travis County Courthouse, Austin, Texas.

3. Secondary and published sources:

Austin Board of Trade. The Industrial Advantages of Austin, Texas. Austin, Texas: the Akehurst Publishing Co., 1894.

Biography File - Wahrenberger Family, House File - 307 West 12th Street, and Austin File - Description to 1900, Austin-Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library.

Elgin Butler Brick Company, 1873-1963. Austin: Elgin Butler Brick Company, 1963.

Johnson, Frank W. A History of Texas and Texans. The American Historical Society: Chicago and New York, 1914.

Memorial and Genealogical Record of Southwest Texas. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894.

Texas Historical Survey Committee, Marker Files and National Register Files.

Williamson, Roxanne Kuter. "Victorian Architecture in Austin." M.A. Thesis, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1967.

Prepared by:

Melvin M. Rotsch, Project
Supervisor and Ellen Beasley, Project
Historian
National Park Service
August 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: An example of an attractive nineteenth-century utilitarian structure built to serve the needs of the large house of John H. Houghton. The formal Mansard design of this small building was an asset to the general appearance of Guadalupe Street in an area noted for its fine mansions.
2. Condition of the fabric: Portions of the exterior brick walls show some structural cracks, but in general the walls and roof materials have been well maintained. In the late 1940s an addition was made on the west side of the building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Original two-story structure, 24' X 32'; one-story addition 21' X 12'.
2. Foundations: Rubble stone below grade.
3. Wall construction: Original exterior walls, 14" in thickness, are of buff brick, now painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: Exterior walls are load bearing. Floor and roof construction is of wood.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The original south door for the carriage entrance is an opening 7'-6" wide, 8'-6" in height, spanned with a brick segmental arch. The lower portion of the opening is now a frame wall with glass above. The other door on the south side is 2'-10" X 7'-0" with a transom above. The door on the north side is 2'-10" X 6'-0" with a transom above; this door is built of diagonal planking.
 - b. Windows: The typical windows on the north and east sides have segmental arched heads, 3'-2" X 6'-0" opening, with double-hung wood sash. On the north side one opening has been changed from a door to a window. Windows on the front addition are steel casements.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Over the rectangular original building there is a steep-sloped Mansard roof covered with patterned gray slate shingles. The flat deck on top is covered with composition roofing, and the flat roof over the one-story addition is also a composition built-up roofing material.
 - b. Cornice: The heavy molded and denticulated cornice is of galvanized sheetmetal, painted white. There are broad built-in gutters at the base of the Mansard slopes.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas: One of the south dormers and those on the west and north sides are at second-floor level. Another dormer on the south at a lower level apparently lighted a stairway that is now removed. These dormers are gable-roofed, wood-framed, sheetmetal covered. At the center of the upper flat roof there is a cupola with louvers on each of the four sides; it is topped with a pyramidal roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first floor of the original building now is a single room with a wood frame stairway in the northwest corner. This room is filled with equipment for blueprinting and other reproduction processes. The HABS team had only limited visual access to this first floor room, and no access to the upper story. The first floor was probably used for carriage and harness storage; the upper was probably used as living quarters for servants.
2. Stairways: It appears that the original stairway, lighted by a dormer, was in the southeast corner of the building. The present wood frame stair in the northwest corner is a later construction.
3. Flooring: The floor of the lower level is of concrete.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The Carriage House is situated near the southwest corner of the property on which the large residence of John H. Houghton is located. The wide door for the carriage opened southward to the alley.
2. Enclosures: An early photograph, dated 1894, shows a board fence about 6' high that apparently enclosed a small lot between the Carriage House and Guadalupe Street.

Prepared by:
Melvin M. Rotsch
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
July 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1973 at the HABS field office at the University of Texas, Austin. Project supervisor was Melvin M. Rotsch (architect, Texas A & M University); project historian was Ellen Beasley; student architects were J. Tucker Bishop (University of Texas), Stephen J. Farneth (Carnegie-Mellon University), Robert D. Ferland (Cornell University), Carl J. Frenning (University of Pennsylvania), Richard W. Schreiber (Boston Architectural Center), and David J. Yturalde (University of Texas). Photographs were taken in 1974 by Roy Pledger.